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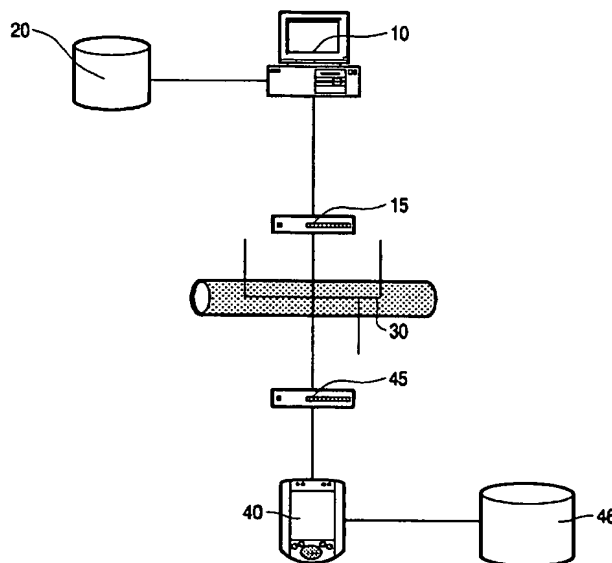
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— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH,

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(54) Title: ASYNCHRONOUS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) **Abstract:** A data storage system, and associated asynchronous communication system and method are described. The data storage system includes data storage means (46) for storing data and an asynchronous transmitter/receiver (45) arranged to communicate over an IEEE 1394 network (30). The data storage means (46) is arranged to accept inputs and to output via an access limiting connector. At least selected data files of the stored data include copy control limiting information, a request for a data file including the copy control limiting information from the data storage means being permitted by the access limiting connector only upon successful authentication. A permitted requested file being encrypted and transmitted asynchronously by the transmitter/receiver (45).

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